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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

Executive Registry

85- 4607

November 20, 1985

The Honorable William J. Casey  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

I am enclosing a copy of a statement that I placed in the Congressional Record yesterday on the subject of leaks of intelligence information, a subject about which I am very concerned.

I know you are getting a lot of criticism from certain quarters, but you should also know that a lot of us think you are doing a very good job. Keep up the good work.

With warm, personal wishes, I am

Sincerely,

  
William S. Broomfield  
Member of Congress

WSB:nsm

Enclosure

## CAULKING THE LEAKY SHIP OF STATE

HON. WM. S. BROOMFIELD

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 19, 1985

Mr. BROOMFIELD. Mr. Speaker, during the past several weeks, Washington has been swash with leaks that have seriously damaged U.S. intelligence interests. One begins to wonder how many more of these media torpedos the ship of state can absorb before it goes under.

It is with great dismay that I see stories attributed to congressional and administration sources regarding the wisdom and details of various intelligence activities. Such disclosures have made a joke of congressional intelligence oversight while jeopardizing the lives of American intelligence officers and their foreign contacts. It is time to return to the old-fashioned concept of putting America's national security interests first.

When Congress decided in the wake of Vietnam and Watergate to exercise more oversight over the intelligence community, it took on a heavy responsibility with overriding national security implications. As the result of this action, our two intelligence committees are now privy to highly sensitive information and material that must be jealously guarded as precious national resources.

Sometimes what's proposed by the administration does not receive the blessing of everyone on the two intelligence panels. Unfortunately, when disagreement does occur, the nature of the disputed activity is often leaked with the intention of sabotaging it before it gets off the drawing board. Such tactics may be politically clever and effective, but they are dangerously shortsighted and their impact on our intelligence capability is devastating.

Mr. Speaker, with these observations as prologue, I would like to make some recommendations as to how we should address this problem.

First, those in the so-called "intelligence information loop" must stop immediately airing their opinions and differences publicly. This applies not only to Congress, but also the executive branch from whence a number of these egregious leaks have sprung.

Second, we must drastically reduce the number of individuals with access to secrets in both Congress and the executive branch. In this regard, I believe Congress must set an example by establishing a Joint Intelligence Committee which would replace the House and Senate Intelligence Committees. This is not a new idea. In fact, I authored legislation to bring this about 10 years ago. Moreover, I was not alone as such respected colleagues as ED BOLAND, SALVIO CONTRA, LEE HAMILTON, BILL FRENZEL, AND DANTE FASCELL sponsored similar bills.

All of these recent disclosures have severely undermined relations between Congress and the intelligence community. For Congress to practice meaningful and responsible oversight over the intelligence agencies, it must first earn the trust of those whose activities it reviews.

That trust is totally lacking now and won't begin to develop until there is some clear-cut assurance that what is said in closed session remains a secret. Chances of that happening are much better when secrets are reported to a very limited group of responsible and senior Representatives and Senators backed by a small group of professional staff experts. Furthermore, under this kind of arrangement with so few in the loop, leakers would be much easier to identify. Presently, there are so many with access to secrets that the FBI and Justice Department seldom, if ever, unmask these anonymous sources who are consistently undercutting our national security.

In short, Mr. Speaker, the time has come to revamp our congressional oversight system with the establishment of a Joint Intelligence Committee along the lines proposed by Congressman HENRY HYDE in House Joint Resolution 7. I urge my colleagues to join me and some 70 other Members in cosponsoring this timely and extremely important initiative that is rapidly gaining widespread bipartisan support.